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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO :

[REDACTED]

FROM :

DATE: 26 January 1967

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Student Protesters at the University of Iowa.

The interviewing facilities of the Business and Industrial Placement Services at the University of Iowa are conducted in a quonset building across the street from the main Placement Service office. This is a building of World War II vintage and it has been divided into several interviewing rooms and a reception area in the front area of the building.

FOIAb3b

Tuesday: As I had begun my afternoon interviews on Tuesday, January 17th, 1967, I was interrupted by Mrs. Verdon, the receptionist for the U of I Placement Service. She informed me that a group of "long-haired" students wished to see me in the reception room. I left my interviewee in the room and met this group in the reception area. They asked me if I were the CIA representative and I informed them that I was. A spokesman for the group, a Mr. Everett Frost I believe, read a open letter to the University of Iowa's president, Dr. Howard Bowen. (The letter is attached.) After completing the letter, the reader asked me if I would leave the campus. My answer was "No". I returned to my interview room to resume interviewing and within a matter of seconds my door was opened and a number of students entered the room and placed themselves on the floor. When the room was full, the remaining students placed themselves in the hallway outside the room. I would guess that they numbered 30-40. I gathered my materials, retrieved my coat, and with my interviewee proceeded to the main Placement Office--the office of the Placement Director, Miss Helen Barnes. Miss Barnes was not immediately available, and in her absence her assistant, Mrs. Files, called Dean of Students, Marion Hewitt. Shortly after I had left the quonset, the protesting students followed me to the main Placement Office. When Miss Barnes arrived at her office, she was much disturbed by the presence of the protesters. As far as I could determine, the attached newspaper articles describing her actions are accurate. When she returned, calls were made to her superior, Dean Rhodes, and subsequent calls were made to President Bowen and Dr. Boyd--his assistant. After approximately 45 minutes of confusion--in which I was in Miss Barnes' office which was closed to the protesters--the University Campus Police appeared. They proceeded to usher those who were scheduled for interviews into and out of the office. When the last interview was completed, the protesters left. Mr. Phil Connell, a representative of President Bowen had appeared earlier and explained the University's position to the protesting students. (Also accurately described by the press.) That evening when I had completed my schedule, Mr. Connell reappeared and went over plans for the remaining days of recruitment. It was decided on Wednesday I would return to the quonset and be assisted by the University Police in keeping the protesters out of the building and to see that those who wanted to be interviewed had no difficulty in coming into the building.

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